

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A digital camera comprising:  
an image sensor for capturing digital images;  
a shutter button; and  
a processor coupled to the shutter button and image sensor that implements a mode detection algorithm that automatically switches between still image and video mode.  
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2. The digital camera recited in Claim 1 wherein the mode detection algorithm is operative to:  
record a still image upon detection of pressing of the shutter button;  
after the still image is recorded, automatically switching to video mode to record video images;  
5 if the shutter button remains depressed for a predetermined time period, optionally deleting the still image; and  
if the shutter button is released before the end of the predetermined time period optionally deleting the recorded video images.
3. The digital camera recited in Claim 2 wherein the predetermined time period is on the order of one second
4. A method comprising the steps of:  
providing a digital camera that comprises a mode detection algorithm that automatically switches between still image and video image mode;  
pressing a shutter button on the digital camera;  
5 recording a still image upon detection of pressing of the shutter button;  
after the still image is recorded, automatically switching to video mode to record video images;  
if the shutter button remains depressed for a predetermined time period, optionally deleting the still image; and  
10 if the shutter button is released before the end of the predetermined time period optionally deleting the recorded video images.

5. The method recited in Claim 4 wherein the predetermined time period is on the order of one second